

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I am Ralph Taylor, and I am writing to you about your reconsideration of the rules that require telephone companies to provide access to the public switched phone network to independent ISPs. I believe that changing the requirement would result in the telecommunications companies denying access to ISPs such as the one I use in favor of services that they themselves provide.

Many Internet users depend on local Internet Service Providers for access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. If you change the regulations in such a way that my ISP no longer has access to the public phone network, it will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to rely upon. Any action that reduces or removes access to the telephone system for these ISPs will simply force the independent ISPs out of business will severely restrict the choices for users.

There is every reason to believe that removing mandated fair interconnection requirements will not only reduce our choice of Internet services, but will likely also result in a rise in consumer rates. I now have a choice among several providers, and am not only allowed to find provider whose services best suit my needs, but can also shop for the best price. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will clearly reduce competition and result in higher prices for consumers in the long run.

Please think very carefully about the consequences of the changes you are considering. Internet service consumers all across America depending on you to protect our diversity of choice. Clearly, the right decision is to maintain or increase the level of competition in the Internet marketplace, not restrict it. That goal is best met by protecting and competitive market conditions for ALL of the thousands of independent ISPs - not by concentrating even more market power in the phone network monopolies.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs' access to the public telephone networks, thereby protecting the rights of millions of consumers like me.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Taylor
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